

SN 09/901,288  
D5620-26  
Amended Claims  
(part of response to Paper No. 9)

We claim:

1           1(currently amended).     A cuvette control unit for controlling cuvettes  
2     by reading a first bar code affixed on said cuvette, said first bar code being  
3     comprised of at least one control code located on one of two opposite end  
4     portions of said first bar code, and at least one information code located  
5     between said opposite end portions, wherein said first bar code encodes a  
6     distinct value from among a plurality of possible values, said cuvette control unit  
7     comprising:

8           a first reading means capable of reading said first bar code, the first  
9     reading means being operative to read said first bar code and being responsive  
10    to at least two different values of at least one said control code at one of said  
11    end portions, wherein said control code contains one of a start code and a  
12    stop code, and wherein the first reading means distinguishes among said at  
13    least two different values of said one of said start code and stop code kinds  
14    when reading the first bar code;

15          a cuvette identification information producing means responsive to the  
16    first reading means, the information producing means providing a cuvette  
17    identification code based on the information code and also based on which of  
18    said different values of the at least one control code is read by the first reading  
19    means when reading said first bar code affixed to said cuvette; and

20          a memory means for storing cuvette identification information  
21    corresponding to said cuvette identification code.

1           2(currently amended).     The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1,  
2     wherein said cuvette identification information producing means provides  
3     produces said cuvette identification code based on ~~information from~~ at least  
4     one said control code comprising a start code at one of said end portions, in  
5     combination with said information code.

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1           3(previously amended). The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1,  
2 wherein said cuvette identification information producing means provides  
3 ~~produces~~ said cuvette identification code based on ~~information from~~ at least  
4 one said control code comprising a stop code at one of said end portions, in  
5 combination with said information code.

1           4(currently amended). The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1,  
2 wherein said cuvette identification information producing means provides  
3 ~~produces~~ said cuvette identification codes based on ~~information from~~ two said  
4 control codes comprising both a start code at one of said end portions, a stop  
5 code at an other of said end portions, and said information code.

1           5(previously amended). The cuvette control unit as set forth in claim 1,  
2 wherein said first bar code comprises a start code and a stop code, on opposite  
3 ends of two digits consisting of one character of information and one character  
4 of inspection code.

1           6(currently amended). A cuvette control unit for controlling cuvettes by  
2 reading a first bar code affixed on said cuvette and at least a second bar code  
3 affixed on a box for carrying a plurality of cures, said first bar code being  
4 comprised of at least one control code located on one of two opposite end  
5 portions of said first bar code, and at least one information code located  
6 between said opposite end portions, wherein said first bar code encodes a  
7 distinct value from among a plurality of possible values, said cuvette control unit  
8 comprising:

9           a first reading means capable of reading said first bar code, the first  
10 reading means being operative to read said first bar code and being responsive  
11 to at least two different values of at least one said control code at one of said  
12 end portions, , wherein said control code contains one of a start code and a  
13 stop code, and wherein the first reading means distinguishes among said at

SN 09/901,288  
D5620-26  
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14 least two different values of said one of said start code and stop code kinds  
15 when reading the first bar code;

16 a cuvette identification information producing means responsive to the  
17 first reading means, the information producing means providing a cuvette  
18 identification code based on the information code and also based on which of  
19 said different values of the at least one control code is read by the first reading  
20 means when reading said first bar code affixed to said cuvette;

21 a second reading means capable of reading said second bar code, and a  
22 cuvette box identification information producing means providing a cuvette box  
23 identification code based on the second bar code;

24 a memory means for storing cuvette identification information  
25 corresponding to said cuvette identification code and said box identification  
26 code; and,

27 a storing control means for storing said cuvette identification information  
28 in the memory means, wherein the cuvette identification information is  
29 correlated in the memory to the cuvette identification code obtained from said  
30 information code combined with said at least one control code, and said cuvette  
31 box identification code.

Claim 7 was previously canceled.

1 8(presently amended). A method of controlling cuvettes by  
2 reading bar codes affixed on said cuvettes, the bar codes representing digits of  
3 code, said method comprising:

4 respectively locating a code to be used for detecting start/stop of said bar  
5 code at both ends of said bar code affixed on each said cuvette;

6 selecting and using at least one code from among a plurality of start/stop  
7 codes respectively showing different values, as at least one of the codes at the  
8 ends of said bar code, used for detecting start/stop of said bar code;

9 identifying each said cuvette using a cuvette identification code  
10 comprising one of the different values selected for said at least one of the codes

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11 used for detecting start/stop of said bar code and also comprising a value of a  
12 code located at a portion between said ends of said bar code;  
13 affixing to said cuvette the bar code showing the cuvette identification  
14 code; and,  
15 reading said cuvette identification code and producing cuvette  
16 identification information for controlling a plurality of the cuvettes;  
17 wherein the cuvette identification information is determined in part  
18 from selection of the different values for at least one of said plurality of  
19 start/stop codes at the ends of said bar code.